

Every ill was the result of exploding populations in the U.S. and abroad. The doomsayers urged government-coerced birth control, abroad and even at home.

Of course none of those calamities have occurred. Indeed, long before 1970, however, most agricultural economists—led by Nobel Prize winner Theodore Schultz—had known that people throughout the world have been living longer and eating better since at least 1950 in the poor countries, and for two centuries in the rich countries. Fewer people die of famine than a century ago. The real prices of food are lower than in earlier periods.

All other raw materials, too: In the great 1963 book "Scarcity and Growth," Harold Barnett and Chandler Morse had documented that prices had been declining throughout history, signaling increased natural-resource availability rather than growing scarcity.

Data showing improved cleanliness of air and purity of water in the rich countries had been published before 1970. Since then the major air and water pollutions in the advanced countries have continued to abate rather than worsen. And statistical studies by Richard Easterlin and Nobel Prize winner Simon Kuznets had in 1967 shown there to be no statistical evidence that population growth hinders economic progress. Yet the environmental organizations, the press, and the Clinton administration still take as doctrine exactly the same falsified ideas expressed by the doomsayers in 1970.

Scientific opinion about population growth has now shifted away from the doomsayers' apocalyptic views. In 1986 the National Academy of Sciences published a report on population growth and economic development prepared by a prestigious scholarly committee chaired by economists D. Gale Johnson and Ronald Lee. It reversed almost completely the frightening conclusions of the previous NAS report in 1971. The expert group found "no statistical association between national rates of population growth and growth rates of income per capita," though they hedged their qualitative judgment a bit. The report found benefits of additional population as well as costs.

I'm sufficiently certain about these trends that I'm willing to put my money where my mouth is. In 1980, Mr. Ehrlich and two associates bet me that increasing scarcity would bring higher prices of raw materials. We agreed to assess the trends in \$1,000 worth of copper, chrome, nickel, tin, and tungsten for ten years. I would win if resources grew more abundant and thus cheaper, and they would win if resources became more expensive. At settling time in 1990, the Ehrlich team sent me a check for \$576.07. The inflation-adjusted price of our basket of metals had declined more than 40% over the bet period.

More environmental and resource data are available nowadays. And a single bet proves little. Hence I make the now broader bet offer to any prominent doomsayer that just about any trend pertaining to material human welfare will improve rather than get worse. The other person picks the trend(s)—life expectancy, a price of a natural resource, some measure of air or water pollution, the number of telephones per person, or whatever—and chooses the area of the world, and the future year a decade or more hence.

Professor Ehrlich and global-warming climatologist Stephen Schneider have responded to my offer with a strategy one might call switch-and-bait. They first switch the subject from material human welfare, and offer to bet on a set of physical indicators such as sperm count, global temperature, and levels of carbon dioxide and ozone. They call these elusive measures "indirect indicators." But they are not relevant. The subject is economic welfare (including health) and not atmospheric science.

Furthermore, the economic goodness or badness of many physical indicators is quite unknown. Carbon dioxide makes the plants grow faster; more of it may be a good thing. And only two decades ago Mr. Schneider wrote a book about the imminent danger of global cooling, so perhaps a higher mean temperature is not the demon he now warns us of.

When I explain these ideas, Mr. Ehrlich baits me—on National Public Radio and elsewhere—by saying that I "chickened out" and "ran." The fact that these folks have to resort to such a switch-and-bait ploy reveals a lot about the strength of their position.

The continuing influence of the failed forecasters among the media and policy makers is frustrating. But it's spring, so let's look at the good news. There is every scientific reason to be joyful about the trends in Earth's condition, and to be hopeful for humanity's future. So we can safely ignore the scare stories and have a Happy Earth Day.

TODAY'S LINE-ITEM VETO DECISION

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia has again held the line-item veto unconstitutional. I respect the decision of Judge Thomas F. Hogan. I respect it not only because his analysis is consistent with that which led me to oppose this legislation when it was being considered by the Senate. I also respect it because it was right as a matter of constitutional law and as a means to preserve the separation of powers that is so central to the checks and balances that preserve our freedoms and liberty.

We hear a lot of speeches around here condemning judges. Here is a Judge who has done his job and stood up for the Constitution against the ill-advised action of the political branches.

It is not our independent federal judiciary that is upsetting the limits of government and fundamental freedoms of us all. Congress has shown a dangerous tendency over the last few years to ignore constitutional limits on Federal legislative branch authority. Maybe it is Members of Congress who need to read the Constitution and consider its wisdom.

The last week of its last term, the United States Supreme Court struck down three congressional actions as unconstitutional, including the so-called Communications Decency Act and the Brady Act, both of which I voted against. The Supreme Court withheld ruling on the line-item veto law at that time, because it held that the plaintiffs in that case were without standing to bring the challenge. It was just a matter of time and occasion. The decision by Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson in the earlier case had predated the ruling today. The line-item veto was and is unconstitutional. I proudly stand with Senator BYRD on this matter.

I would ask Congress to step back from this specific decision and consider how unprecedented this is: Four statutes that do not comport with the constitutional limits on congressional au-

thority overturned from a single Congress.

It is unfortunate that Congress is far too often overstepping its constitutional bounds. It is unfortunate that the courts have to rein Congress in from time to time, with increasing frequency as the Republican majority loses its moorings, but that is the thankless responsibility of the courts under our system of checks and balances.

I have come to this floor often in the last several months to defend the judiciary against shrill attacks. I come today to offer my continuing gratitude and respect for our co-equal branch of government. We are the envy of the world in part because our free and independent judicial branch has served our country so well for more than 200 years.

We should be doing more to keep it that way, not less. We are finally beginning to consider longstanding judicial nominations to fill the vacancies that plague the federal judiciary and threaten the administration of justice. We need to do more. We should consider without further delay the judiciary's requests for the resources that they need. We should consider S. 678, the Federal Judgeship Act, which I introduced at the request of the Judicial Conference to provide an additional 55 judges where needed around the country. We should act on S. 394, which I sponsored with Senator HATCH to unlink judicial salaries from our own. We should consider and confirm qualified nominees to the 83 vacancies to the federal courts.

Finally, I hope that members of Congress will rethink the rush to propose amendment to our Constitution and consider how well our fundamental charter serves us. We do not need to rewrite the Constitution, we need to respect it and act in accordance with its design. •

KATHLEEN JONES AND MOIRA DELAHANTY—WINNERS OF THE PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD AND CHRISTOPHER VACHON, CHRISTOPHER PAPPAS, JOSEPH ALLISON, JUSTINE BARRETT, DISTINGUISHED FINALISTS

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Kathleen Jones and Moira Delahanty who have achieved national recognition for receiving the Prudential Spirit of Community Award. I commend their youthful spirit and aggressive drive to improve the quality of life in New Hampshire through community service.

The award, presented by The Prudential Insurance Company of America in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, recognizes young people who have shown a great deal of commitment and dedication to improving their community. As New Hampshire's honorees,